

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /027 W

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R 312208Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4349

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 4199

PASS USDA/FAS (R. ANDERSON, LIVESTOCK DIVISION)  
FROM AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAG, HO

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 4119, (B) FASTO CIR 278

1. GOH FULLY AWARE AMOUNT MEAT IMPORTED BY U.S. FROM HONDURAS ALSO AMOUNT MEAT EXPORTED TO U.S. PROBLEM WHICH EXISTS IS ONE OF LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITHIN GOH. CENTRAL BANK IS OFFICE IN GOH WHICH WAS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY OF MEAT RESTRAINT PROGRAM, NOT REPEAT NOT MINECON. INFO CONTAINED IN REF B FURNISHED BANCO CENTRAL BY TELEPHONE AUGUST 17 AND BY LETTER OF SAME DATE. BANCO CENTRAL HAS SINCE MET WITH EXPORTERS AND IS ACTIVELY TRYING TO FIND SOLUTION. AGATT HAS MET WITH EMBASSY, BANCO CENTRAL, MEAT PLANT OWNERS, AND MINECON OFFICIALS AND DISCUSSED ENTIRE MEAT RESTRAINT PROGRAM. ALL UNDERSTAND THERE IS LITTLE TO NO POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN QUOTA. PLANT OWNERS ARE FACED WITH PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH PRODUCTION AFTER QUOTA FILLED. MAJORITY (FIVE) OF THE PLANTS HAVE NOT BEEN EXPORTING TO ANY DEGRES DURING PERIOD MAY THROUGH AUGUST WHICH IS NORMAL. TWO PLANTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET SUFFICIENT CATTLE AND SLAUGHTERED AT A RATE WHICH IS FAR ABOVE NORMAL, IN FACT THESE TWO PLANTS HAVE EXPORTED 67 PERCENT OF THE MEAT EXPORTED BY HONDURAS.

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THUS THE FIVE PLANTS WHICH PLANNED TO EXPORT DURING PERIOD AUGUST

THRU DECEMBER ARE FACED WITH PROBLEM OF NOT BEING ABLE TO OVER-COME THE PERIOD OF LOW PRODUCTION AND WILL NO DOUBT SUFFER SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. PLANT OWNERS HAVE TAKEN THIS PROBLEM TO MINECON WHO REPLIED WITH "THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM." HE (MINECON) HAS SINCE HAD ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WITH PACKERS AND HAS ASKED FOR AN ADDITIONAL QUOTA AS REPORTED REF A. EXPANSION OF THE PROBLEM IS LIKELY IN LATE OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER. IF PLANTS HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN OPERATIONS DUE LACK OF EXPORT MARKET, CATTLE PRODUCERS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE AN OUTLET AND MAY NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO CARRY THE CATTLE DUE NORMAL LACK OF RAIN AT THAT TIME.

2. RE PARA D REF A, GUATEMALA IS NOT REPEAT NOT BEHIND ON SHIPMENTS NOR IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THEY WILL NOT FULFILL THEIR QUOTA; IN FACT, IF PERMITTED THEY COULD EXCEED IT.

3. FURTHER MEETINGS WITH MINISTER NATUAL RESOURCES AND MINECON ARE SCHEDULED. WILL ADVISE.  
BARTCH

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NNN

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